

Message Text

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61

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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R 271852Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4095

US CUSTOMS HQ O/I FRD INV/FIB WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZOLANA DE EXPORT AGRICOLA VENEAGRO

REF: MEXICO 8889; MEXICO 8403

1. EMBASSY WAS ABLE TO ESTABLISH DIRECT TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH SR. ALBINO GOMEZ, OWNER AND PRESIDENT OF VENEAGRO, 26 JULY.

2. MR. GOMEZ STATED THAT THE OUTPUT OF HIS PLANTATION IN EL VIGIA IS NOW SOLD PRINCIPALLY TO THE VENEZUELAN MARKET, AND HE DOES NOT CONTEMPLATE NEAR TERM EXPORTS TO THE U.S.

3. HE FURTHER VOLUNTEERED THAT VENEZUELA'S EXCLUSION FROM GSP HAS PLACED HIM AT A COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGE RELATIVE TO MEXICO AND COSTA RICA.

4. MR. GOMEZ STATED THAT HIS COMPANY'S NOW-INSIGNIFICANT EXPORT BUSINESS HAS BEEN CONDUCTED AT THE ADDRESS SHOWN IN REF. 2. THIS ADDRESS LACKS ONLY "AVENIDA VENEZUELA" TO BE COMPLETE.

5. MR. GOMEZ HAS BEEN INFORMED BY HIS U.S. BUYER THAT THE CUSTOMS SERVICE NOTED AN IRREGULARITY IN VENEAGRO'S LAST SHIPMENT OF FROZEN YUCCA.

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6. WITHOUT KNOWING MORE ABOUT THE REASONS FOR THE INQUIRY,

MR. GOMEZ WAS UNWILLING TO COMMIT HIMSELF TO SUBMIT COMPANY RECORDS FOR REVIEW.

7. MR. GOMEZ INDICATED THAT HIS COMPANY AND THE U.S. IMPORTER HAVE DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF SPLITTING 17 PERCENT U.S. TARIFF TO ENABLE THEM TO REENTER U.S. MARKET, AND WAS INTERESTED IN CUSTOMS SERVICE POTENTIAL REACTION TO FURTHER SHIPMENTS. WHEN MR. GOMEZ WAS ADVISED THAT ACCESS TO VENEAGRO COMPANY COMPANY RECORDS MIGHT FIGURE IN SHAPING U.S. CUSTOMS' ATTITUDES, HE STATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT RECORDS ARE SOUGHT BY CUSTOMS, AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE.
VAKY

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